

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace originally filed drawing sheets 1/2 and 2/2 with the attached replacement drawing sheets 1/2 and 2/2.

For replacement drawing sheet 1/2, the only changes are that:

- reference characters “FU” and “TU” have been added to Figure 1, and
- arrows identified by the reference characters “FU” and “TU” have been added to Figure 1.

For replacement drawing sheet 2/2, the only changes are that:

- reference characters “FF” and “TF” have been added to Figure 3, and
- arrows identified by the reference characters “FF” and “TF” have been added to Figure 3.

REMARKS

This document is in response to the Office Action dated December 28, 2004. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The applicant acknowledges with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed Claims 19-20, and has indicated that Claims 9-10 and 16-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Because Claim 19 originally depended from rejected Claim 1, it is presumed that the Office Action should have indicated that Claim 19 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested because, for example, independent Claim 20 was allowed by the Office Action and has not been amended; by way of the foregoing amendments all of the other independent claims, Claims 1 and 19, respectively represent Claims 9 and 19 rewritten in independent form including all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and the Office Action indicates that Claims 9 and 19 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Objection To The Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings by indicating that “the first and second force and first and second torque must be shown or the feature(s) cancelled from the claim(s).” It is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings has been overcome by the foregoing amendments to the drawings, and that no new matter has been entered. More specifically, it is respectfully submitted that those of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the amendments to the drawings are fully supported by the originally filed specification and originally filed drawings, such that no new matter has been entered.

Objection To The Specification And Claim

The Office Action objects to the specification for “failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter . . . the first and second force was not described in the specification.” The Office Action objects to Claims 8 and 14-15 because “a first and second force and first and second torque are not disclosed in the specification.”

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with both of these objections on the grounds that those of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the originally filed specification discloses forces and torques corresponding to the first and second forces and first and second torques recited in the claims. For example, see the originally filed specification’s paragraph that begins on page 5, line 21; this portion of the specification can be well understood in view of original Figures 1-3.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, by way of the foregoing amendments, the specification’s paragraph beginning on page 5, line 21, has been amended to more explicitly refer to forces and torques in a manner such that the objections to the specification and claims should be withdrawn. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by the amendments to the specification. More specifically, it is respectfully submitted that those of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the amendments to specification are fully supported by the originally filed specification and originally filed drawings, such that no new matter has been entered.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is solicited. If for some reason the Examiner deems that the present application is not in condition for immediate allowance, it is respectfully requested that she telephone the undersigned at 704-331-4904, in an effort to streamline prosecution.

Claim Scope

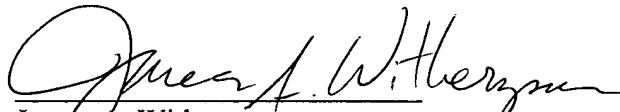
None of the references to, or amendments to, the specification and/or drawings that have been made in this Amendment and Response are intended to narrow the scope of the claims or cause the claims to be limited to the disclosed embodiments.

Authorization

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for the timely consideration of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 09-0528.

Respectfully submitted

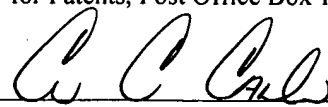
3/23/05
Date


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope address to: Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on March 23, 2005.


Connie C. Carlson